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S/NPMEMORANDUM FOR THE HONORABLE KENNETH W. DAM
The Deputy Secretary of State
The Department of State

SUBJECT: Tarapur Nuclear Spare Parts Supply (S)

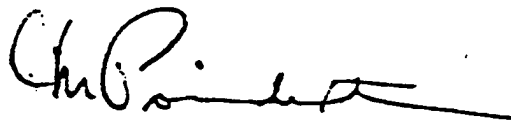
At the time of Secretary Shultz's trip, it was agreed that we would broach the subject of helping India with its nuclear spare parts problem, provided the Indian government was unable to obtain the parts from other sources and in the expectation that India would reciprocate with some positive nonproliferation gesture in an area of its own choosing, e.g., a willingness to enter into a dialogue with Pakistan on a nuclear testing moratorium. Since then India has instead conducted activities at its nuclear test site that raise serious questions about that country's actual nuclear intentions. India's refusal to date to provide a satisfactory explanation for this activity, coupled with its unresponsiveness in providing a positive reciprocal gesture, places the United States in an untenable position while creating great skepticism abroad and at home about the seriousness of the President's commitment to nonproliferation. It would appear that the moment has come to rescind our original offer to cooperate on the issue of further nuclear supply. Your assistance in coordinating the development of a strategy paper for implementing a decision to rescind cooperation is requested. We believe that ACDA and DOD should be full participants in this effort. (S)

In addition, contingency plans are also now needed for dealing with a possibly imminent Indian nuclear test. Among other things, we need to consider: 1) whether to advise our allies of the possible imminence of such a test; 2) what steps we and they might take to discourage another Indian nuclear explosion; 3) what advance warning we should provide to Pakistan; and 4) what sanctions are available for assuring that our response to such an explosion is truly serious and therefore helpful in deterring other potential proliferators. (S)

Given the possible urgency of the problem, papers dealing with both questions are requested by Noon, Friday, October 21. (S)

State Dept. review completed

NSC review completed.



John M. Poindexter
Deputy Assistant to the President
for National Security Affairs

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Declassify OADR